**Inside Stories** 



for SHL, p.7

ton, p.4

**JANUARY 19, 2023** 

VOL. 86, No. 9

15 Crescent Rd., Suite 100, Greenbelt, MD 20770-1887

MLK Day of Service

## Volunteers Cage Big Trees Along Greenbelt Lake Trail

by Deb Daniel

On Monday, January 16, tree protection in Buddy Attick Park was the main focus of Greenbelt's Martin Luther King (MLK) Jr. National Day of Service. The Co-existing With Beavers volunteer workday saw 40 volunteers cage big trees along the trail around Greenbelt Lake in an attempt to protect the trees from hungry beavers. The MLK program is part of the Department of Public Works (DPW) Conservation Stewardship program which includes Weed Warrior and other events throughout the year to involve the community in caring for Greenbelt's public lands.

#### **Beavers**

Beavers chew on tree trunks

for food and to collect wood material for their dams and lodges. Tree caging, wrapping a 3- to 4-foot-high wire fence around a tree trunk, is a great method to discourage beavers from felling native trees in areas frequented by the public. On MLK Day of Service this year, large trees close to the trail were targeted for caging, while smaller trees were left uncaged. This prevents beavers from felling large trees, which can pose a public safety threat, while leaving the smaller trees for the beavers, enabling people to safely co-exist with the beavers at Buddy Attick Park.

See VOLUNTEERS, page 12



Volunteers at the Martin Luther King Jr. service day receive their instructions from Environmental Coordinator Kevin Carpenter-Driscoll at the Lake.

## Three Roosevelt Seniors Are Selected as Posse Scholars

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

School (ERHS) seniors are celebrating brighter opportunities for their college careers after being named Posse Scholars this month. The Posse Scholarships will provide them with full college tuition for four years. A total of 12 students from Prince George's County, including the three from Roosevelt, were selected this year. Students participating in the Posse program have a 90-percent college graduation rate, according to the Posse Foundation. Speaking at the Board of Education meeting on January 12, Prince George's County Public School's CEO Dr. Monica Goldson estimated that each scholarship was worth approximately \$140,000.

"I am so proud of this year's scholarship class who represent the spectrum of excellence across the PGCPS community, specialty, charter and international high schools," said Goldson. "We wish

Three Eleanor Roosevelt High them continued success as they begin the next chapter of their academic careers and embark on this tremendous opportunity."

This year's recipients from ERHS are Marco Assam and Ruth Olawumi, who will attend the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and Dianara Sagazstizado. who will attend Lewis & Clark College.

According to their website, the Posse Foundation believes "diversity is the key to solving our country's biggest problems," and "a small, diverse group of talented students - a Posse carefully selected and trained, can serve as a catalyst for individual and community development." The foundation seeks to diversify the pool of candidates from which top universities and colleges can draw, to help build

See SCHOLARS, page 4

## Working Parents Struggle With Virtual Learning Days

by Anna Bedford-Dillow



Six-year-old Emmeline looks at the PGCPS dashboard on her school-issued Chromebook.

After the approval of up to eight Virtual Learning Days by the Maryland State Department of Education, Prince George's County Public Schools announced three scheduled asynchronous virtual learning half days to facilitate teachers' end-of-quarter grading and planning. The first day, November 7, was just over three weeks after their announcement and left many families scrambling

to change appointments and plans to accommodate children at home that day. The second scheduled virtual half day is Wednesday, January 25.

#### **Working Parents**

John Zale works from home for the federal government and is the parent of a kindergartener. He echoed the concerns of other working parents. "It's a problem for families," he said. "Most parents' situations necessitate two working adults to maintain a household. Unless there's some other framework for engaging kids during the day, it's just another stress and a major imposition on working families."

Brooke Kenny is on the board of Greenbelt Elementary School's PTA. She's also the operations

See VIRTUAL, page 6

## Bring Valentine Love Notes To the Greenbelt Co-op Store

by Cathie Meetre

#### We Love You, Co-op

New this year, a big "we love tasteful adornments. you" goes to the Co-op Supermarket and Pharmacy which is collaborating with the News Review to make it easy to submit and pay for Super Sweetie Valentine Love Notes. You write the sentiment – we provide the hearts, flowers, teddy bears, pup-

pies, kittens, bows and other

Love Notes (including those emailed) must be paid for at the Co-op; there are forms and envelopes handy just inside the store's parking lot entrance. Completed and paid Love Notes can

See VALENTINE, page 8

Some of the News Review Love Notes from 2022

#### What Goes On

The opportunity to do a little

something for world love and

peace arises again this year as the

News Review launches Valentine

Love Notes 2023 to burst

forth in the issue of February

9. Take a look at last year's

outpouring of love and humor at

greenbeltnewsreview.com/issues/

GNR20220210.pdf.

Monday, January 23 7:30 p.m., City Council meeting, Municipal Building

Wednesday, January 25 7:30 p.m., Council Worksession: Recreation/Museum merger, Municipal Building

See the meetings calendar on page 5 or visit greenbeltmd. gov for more information.

## Letters to the Editor

#### What Rate For 2024 Taxes?

According to the News Review's January 12 article, Councilmember Judith Davis and Mayor Emmett Jordan want "to hold the line on property tax rates" but do not see "any likelihood that the city could reduce taxes to the constant yield tax rate." The following sentence, seemingly stated in support, observes that "new and planned developments will increase the need for police and recreation staffers."

My question is this: Isn't there a rate in between the current property tax rate and the constant yield rate that would offer some relief to property taxpayers - whose tax bills are increasing beyond the rate of inflation simply because of market conditions? This rate would still supply more funds than the current fiscal year and enough money to fund city government and services.

In recognizing that new housing developments increase the need for city services, let's remember that new housing units also bring in new property taxes to fund these services. The fact that current revenues exceed current expenditures and are projected to do so at the end of this fiscal year supports my point.

In summary I'd like to encourage the city manager to propose three budgets for council review: one with property tax rates staying the same, one with tax rates reduced to the constant yield rate and one with rates reduced to halfway in between.

Joyce Campbell

# **GIVE BLOOD**

#### Condo Woes

Your Dec. 29 article noted "In a condo, an elected homeowners' association (HOA) board oversees maintenance of the building structure and facilities shared by all. They usually hire a specialized management company to do this day-to-day." However, you never named any of the condominium board members, nor did you quote any of the unit owners that have been highly critical of the board. You also failed to identify the contracted management company: First-Service Residential. You fail to mention that many of the unit owners have organized in opposition to the condo board and have hired legal counsel. The Towers In Westchester Park has a large number of senior citizens - at least 30 percent of the total - who are on fixed income and who are worried to death about how they will contend with the special assessment. I live in a tiny studio efficiency and the charge is \$21,700. For a three-bedroom the assessment is north of \$57,000. You also stated that "American Rescue Plan Act funds are currently available that may possibly give grants and no-interest loans to lower-income building residents who get into arrears on their payments." Has the condo board of directors explored such funding? We do know they have been pushing hard to get unit owners to sign up for the Maryland Homeowners Assistance Fund (HAF) program, which can take months to process. The Washington Post has reported applicants in the District having their properties foreclosed on while they waited for HAF funding to come through, and some do not qualify at all. Your paper needs to keep an eye on this.

Michael Fekula

#### On Screen at Old Greenbelt Theatre

#### EO

(In Polish with English subtitles)

The world is a mysterious place when seen through the eyes of an animal. EO, a gray donkey with melancholic eyes, meets good and bad people on his life's path, experiences joy and pain, endures the wheel of fortune randomly turn his luck into disaster and his despair into unexpected bliss. But not even for a moment does he lose his innocence. "The beasts give EO an authenticity beyond human acting, without the trappings of rational meaning," says critic J. Hoberman of The Nation. "Behind the veil of [Director Jerzy] Skolimowski's bravura technique, life simply is."

#### Broker

(In Korean with English subtitles)

The film follows two brokers who sell orphaned infants, circumventing the bureaucracy of legal adoption, to affluent couples who can't have children of their own. After an infant's mother surprises the duo by returning to ensure her child finds a good home, the three embark on a journey to find the right couple, building an unlikely family of their own. Comments on the film by critic Jenny Nulf of the Austin Chronicle: "The charm of [Director Hirokazu] Kore-eda's films is the layering of complex characters, and he puts a lot of heart and time into each of them, sculpting intricate emotions and relationships that connect with the viewer."

#### The Whale

A reclusive English teacher (Brendan Fraser) suffering from severe obesity attempts to reconnect with his estranged teenage daughter for one last chance at redemption. Critic Chris Hewitt of the Minneapolis Star Tribune praised the movie's lead actor: "Fraser's choices are so subtly intelligent that we barely notice what amounts to his costume, so attuned are we to the way his Charlie teeters on the brink of life and death."

#### 

Roses are red, Violets are blue, Express your love In the News Review

Sweetie Size at \$6

See page 8 to get yours!



#### LISTEN to the **NEWS REVIEW** Visually impaired may listen for free Call Metropolitan Washington Ear 301-681-6636 No special equipment needed



Old Greenbelt Theatre 129 Centerway 301-329-2034 www.greenbelttheatre.org

Members Always \$6.50! Member kids are always FREE!

Adults \$9, Kids \$6, Senior/Student/Military \$8

All shows before 5 PM: Adults \$7, Kids \$5

OC = Open Captions CC = Closed Captions **DVS = Descriptive Video Service** 

#### **SHOWTIMES:** JANUARY 20TH - JANUARY 26TH

Screen 1 - Main Auditorium

**EO** (NR) (2022) (86 mins) Polish w/ English subtitles

Fri. 8:00 PM

Sat. 5:15 PM

Sun. 2:45 PM

Mon. 5:30 PM

Tues. 5:30 PM

Wed. 8:15 PM Thurs. 5:30 PM

**Broker** (R) (2022) (129 mins) Korean w/ English subtitles

Fri. 5:15 PM

Sat. 7:30 PM

Sun. 5:00 PM

Mon. 2:45 PM Tues. 7:30 PM

Wed. 5:30 PM

Thurs. 7:30 PM

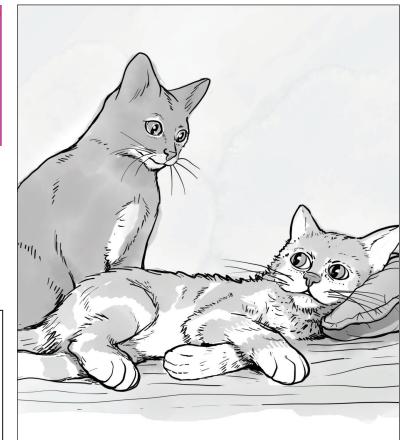
Screen 2 - The Screening Room

The Whale (R) (CC) (DVS) (2022) (117 mins)

Fri. 5:00 PM, 7:45 PM Sat. 5:00 PM, 7:45 PM Sun. 2:30 PM, 5:15 PM Mon. 5:30 PM (OC) Tues. 7:00 PM

Wed. 7:00 PM

Thurs. 7:00 PM



I'm taking it easy this year.

- M. Kusie

#### **Letters Policy**

Deadline for letters is 6 p.m. Monday. Submission does not guarantee publication. Letters should be no longer than 300 words (shorter letters are more likely to be published).

Letters may be edited for clarity, grammar, civility and space constraints. The News Review may add a comment from the editor if deemed necessary.

All letters must include the letter writer's name, physical address, and telephone number. Only the name will be published; the News Review will consider requests for the name to be withheld.



## Greenbelt **News Review**

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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PUBLICATION DEADLINES:

- Monday 2 p.m. Articles/photos over 700 words, Display Ads (not camera ready).
- Monday 6 p.m. All Letters to the Editor (300 word limit).
- Tuesday 2 p.m. Articles/photos under 700 words, photographs not associated with a story. - Tuesday 6 p.m. Classified Ads and camera-ready display ads.
- Email submission is available. Hardcopy submissions (delivered by respective deadline) may be mailed to the address above or left in the Co-op grocery store drop box or GNR external office door mail slot, as shown below.
- Payment must accompany ads except by prior arrangement

MAIL SUBSCRIPTION: \$55/year

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd. OFFICE HOURS: Monday 2 - 4 p.m., Tuesday 2 - 4, 6 - 8 p.m. Office is currently closed to the public. Please phone or email GNR external office door mail slot is located up a few stairs 25 yards left of the Community Center's east door near the municipal building.

## **Community Events**

#### **Celebrate 20 Years** Of Forest Preservation

Join a celebratory hike into the Greenbelt Forest Preserve on Sunday, January 22. In 2003, the Greenbelt City Council passed the forest preserve ordinance which established the Forest Preserve. Twenty years later it is still standing, keeping it wild and wooded: protecting the air, water and wildlife and providing Greenbelters with a wilderness experience in the midst of an urban landscape. Put on hiking shoes, bring walking sticks and meet on Northway by the Greenbelt Forest Preserve North Woods Tract sign. The hike begins at 11 a.m. and will be 1.5 to 2 hours long. See Blueberry Hill, the old Pumpkin Trail, the 100-year floodplain, Goddard Branch and more. Learn some history of the Forest Preserve and meet some fellow woods walkers.

Echoing the tradition of the Committee to Save the Green Belt and their weekly hikes hosted to save the Great North Woods (as it was known prior to being named the Greenbelt Forest Preserve), hot drinks, sandwiches and more will be provided after the hike. Paul Downs, forest protector and 2017 Outstanding Citizen, will lead the hike, which will be moderately strenuous, going up and down hills. Wear sturdy shoes and dress for mud and possibly climbing over downed trees. For more information, email suzanbwild@gmail. com. For those unable to make this hike, there will be more hikes and events throughout the year.



#### **Greenbelt Chess Club**

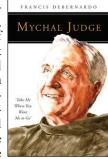
The Chess Club will meet on Monday, January 23 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the New Deal Café,

The group is for all ages and skill levels. Bring a chess set if available. For more information or questions, contact Effie, 443-415-1053.

#### **Book Reading By Local Authors**

Two well-known and respected men will be reading and signing their books on Monday, January 30 from 7:30 to 9 p.m. at the New Deal Café.

Frank De-Bernardo, founder of Greenbelt Pride, will read from his spiritual biography Mychal Judge: Take Me Where



You Want Me to Go. He writes about Fr. Judge, an inspirational gay Roman Catholic priest, who ministered to rich and poor, famous and homeless people in New York City. While serving as a chaplain to first responders he died in the 9/11 attack on the World Trade Center ministering to victims. DeBernardo is the executive director of New Ways Ministry, a national Catholic organization that works for equality and justice for LGBTQ people.

Chris Haley will read from Fists and Rainbows, a collection of poetry with personal expressions and institutional analysis of race and LGBTQ issues. Haley works at the Maryland State Archives as director of The Legacy of Slavery Program in Maryland. He has worked as a leader with the Greenbelt Utopia Film Festival and Greenbelt Access Television. Haley is an actor, speaker, filmmaker and presenter in many venues around the country.

#### **TEA Time Jan. 20**

Adults are invited to come for TEA (Taking Effective Action) time. Come for lunch and create a vision board to empower personal and professional growth for 2023 (supplies provided). The meeting will be held in the back room of the New Deal Café on Friday, January 20, from noon to 1 p.m.

Those interested should call or email Li'l Dan at 240-643-3768 or dceldran@hotmail.com before Thursday, January 19.

#### **Free Screening** Of New Film at OGT

On Thursday, January 19 at the Old Greenbelt Theatre, there will be a screening of Lion of Judah Legacy, a new satirical superhero origin movie by Frank Cisco Anderson, before its release to film festivals and streaming. The evening begins at 7:30 p.m. with red carpet and photos, followed at 8:30 p.m. by the film screening and at 10 p.m. with a Q&A session with the cast and crew. Donations via ticket are optional. For more information, visit: eventbrite.com/e/specialprivate-screening-of-lion-of-judahlegacy-by-frank-cisco-andersontickets-481414582977?aff=eand.

#### **New Deal Hosts Two Band & Book Events**

The Reilly Goulait Band, which has been a regular act at the New Deal Café for years, will be back again in January with a special twist. On Thursday, January 19 from 7 to 9 p.m., the band will perform live music, including new original songs inspired by Bob Reilly's book, Rideshare by Robert: Every Ride's a Short Story. Reilly, of Laurel, has heard approximately 33,000 stories from passengers during the past seven years while driving for Uber and

On Sunday, January 22, from 1 to 3 p.m., Reilly will be at the New Deal for a Meet the Author event, with a book introduction, Q & A, storytelling and an acoustic musical presentation of original songs inspired by stories in the book and the rideshare experience. Reilly will be joined by Joe Goulait of the Reilly Goulait Band for this special event.



#### **Restoring Woodland Workday on Saturday**

Help prepare the ground for the benefit of fireflies, butterflies, and birds. The Woodlands Committee is hosting a workday on Saturday, January 21 from 9 a.m. to noon. Participants will be removing invasive shrubs and vines to prepare for planting bare root elderberry, spicebush and native wildflowers above the Hillside Road underpass. Meet on the path by the underpass, just a bit uphill from the Firefly Sanctuary.

Wear a face mask when in proximity to others and clothes that cover the skin, leather gloves and thick pants to protect against scratches. Bring loppers, pruning shears, trowels and shovels.

For more information, contact SowingStrength2@gmail.com.



#### Join the Gardening Angels on Thursday

Retirees and telecommuters who want an outdoor lunch break are invited to attend a work session of a Woodlands Committee group addressing the biodiversity crisis in the community on Thursday, January 26 from noon to 1 p.m.

This year, the group will be creating nurturing habitat by propagating native plants, removing invasives and installing the plants we nurture in common areas in Greenbelt. Meet on the path next to the Hillside Road underpass, just a bit uphill from the Firefly Sanctuary. There is work for all kinds of bodies, whether it is digging all day or getting hands in the soil while seated at a table. For more information, contact SowingStrength2@gmail.com.

#### **Astronomical Society Meets January 26**

The Astronomical Society of Greenbelt will meet on Thursday, January 26 at 7:30 p.m. Indy Kochte, mission analyst at Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory, will present a talk on What's New with New Horizons, an update on the New Horizons spacecraft's follow-up missions since its historic Pluto flyby. This event is free and open to the public.

This event is a hybrid in-person/virtual event. The in-person lecture will be in Room 114 of the Community Center. A Zoom link for those who wish to attend virtually will be posted before the event on the event page at greenbeltastro.org/events.

#### Golden Age Club

Make 2023 the year to join Greenbelt's Golden Age Club. For those 60 years or older and a resident of Greenbelt, meetings are every Wednesday at 11 a.m. in the Community Center's second floor meeting room. There's always lots going on. The first Wednesday of the month is a business and social meeting; the second Wednesday often features a special speaker. The third Wednesday celebrates birthdays of the month and the fourth Wednesday is BINGO.

A number of special events are planned for the coming year, including our anniversary luncheon at the College Park Holiday Inn in April. Other months will include a presentation on kitchen hacks for seniors, physical therapy for better health and a presentation by Donna Peterson on Women of the Wild West.



## This Week at the New Deal Café ? § The ONLY Greenbelt venue with BOTH dinner AND a show!



#### Nourished by the Greenbelt Co-op

Evening reservations recommended: 301-474-5642

113 Centerway, Roosevelt Center, Greenbelt, MD

Hours: Monday – Thursday 8am – 9pm; Friday/Saturday 8am – midnight; Sunday 9am – 9pm

TH 1/19	FRI 1/20	SAT 1/21	SUN 1/22	
The Reilly Goulait "Band and Book" Event* 7-9pm Popular covers & originals	TEA Time!* 12-1pm  Rock Creek Revival with Samantha Press 8-11pm Bluegrass	BACK LIVE! Poetry Open Mic* 1-3pm Moxie Blues Band 8-11pm	Deaf Brunch 10:30am-12noon Meet the Author Event with Bob Reilly* 1-3pm Colleen 'n Crew 6-8pm	
MON 1/23	TUES 1/24	WED 1/25	TH 1/26	MON - FRI
Chess Club 6-8pm NDC Board Meeting* 6:30-7:30pm	New Deal Early Bird Tunes Open Mic with Michael McTrouserpants 6:30-9pm	Argo and the Violet Queens 7-9pm New alternative DC rock band	Dar Stellabotta with Tossing and Turning 7-9pm Cigar box blues rock	Happy Hour 4-7pm \$1.00 off beer and wine

It's time to renew your membership or join NDC.

Go to www.newdealcafe.com, click on "ABOUT", then "BECOME A MEMBER OR RENEW." Follow us on Facebook.

\*For more information on these events, visit the NDC CALENDAR page on our website.



11am

**Greenbelt Newsreel** 

MN Greenbelt Newsreel

#### **Greenbelt Access Television Jan. 21, Sat. – Jan. 27, Fri**

Community Programming

**Community Programming** 

Verizon FIOS Channel 19 • Comcast 77 (School Programming on Your Cable Guide) Streaming on www.greenbeltaccesstv.org

Democracy Now!	Yesterday's Syndicated Program	
Classic Movies	Mr. Imperium • 1951 Lana Turner	
Greenbelt Newsreel	Community Programming	
Democracy Now!	Today's Syndicated Program	
PGCPS Science Bowl 2022-23	Elementary: Montpelier v. Templeton	
Music at the New Deal SEASON SIX	Griefcat • Singer-Songwriter Duo	
Classic Movies	Mr. Imperium • 1951 Lana Turner	
PGCPS Science Bowl 2022-23	Elementary: Montpelier v. Templeton	

THIS WEEK on GATe • Your Community Access Station

Dei PG 1pm Mu 2pm Cla 3pm PG( 5pm **Community Programming Greenbelt Newsreel Democracy Now! Today's Syndicated Program Classic Movies** Mr. Imperium • 1951 Lana Turner 8pm Griefcat • Singer-Songwriter Duo Music at the New Deal SEASON SIX **Democracy Now! Today's Syndicated Program** 

Connect with GATe ( ) www.greenbeltaccesstv.org

## Washington Seeks Senate Seat SCHOLARS continued from page 1

Maryland State Delegate Alonzo Washington (D) has announced he will seek the open Senate seat for District 22 vacated by Paul Pinsky. Pinsky has been nominated to direct the Maryland Energy Administration under Maryland Governor Wes

Washington has served in the Maryland House representing District 22 for just over a decade. During that time, he has served as vice chair of the Ways and Means Committee, chair of the Education Subcommittee, chair of the Election Law Subcommittee and lead sponsor of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future. He also served as co-chair of the Prince George's County Police Reform Work Group at the local level.

In a press release, Washington highlighted his achievements for working families and education: "Over the last decade, I have worked hard to bring in tens of

This Ad Could be Yours

and be praising your

Sweetie

He oughta be flattered to

know that he mattered Praise him to the skies

Look deep in his eyes

At twelve bucks a shot!

He's worth it, why not?

Mega Sweetie Size \$12

See page 8 to get yours!

millions in funding for community projects, provide tuition-free community college for county residents, create new affordable housing, sponsor new tax cuts for seniors and working families and build three brand new schools in District 22,"

When there is a vacancy in the Maryland General Assembly the governor is responsible for appointing a replacement from the political party holding that seat, usually from a list of recommended candidates submitted by the party committee. Moore will assume office this week

and the party committee will have 30 days to submit their nominations.



**Alonzo Washington** 

Information for this article was drawn from a press release issued by the office of Delegate Washington.

campus environments more welcoming to students of diverse backgrounds and to ensure the Posse Scholars can graduate and join the workforce as leaders. The program seeks to identify students "with extraordinary leadership potential." Each year, the foundation sends a "posse" of 10 students to each of the 64 participating colleges and universities so that the members

of the group can support one another along their educational journeys. The Posse Foundation was founded in 1989 by Deborah Bial, who received a MacArthur Genius Grant for her work. It was one of 10 organizations selected by President Obama to receive a portion of the \$1.4 million he received from his Nobel Peace Prize award.



Witch hazel Wisley Supreme variety

Crisis Hotline's New Number is 988

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline dialing code has changed, effective July 16. The new three-digit dialing code is 988 and it's available for phone calls and text messages.

The former Lifeline phone number (1-800-273-8255) will continue to be accessible.

Calls and text messages are confidential and free.

"No matter what problems you're dealing with, whether or not you're thinking about suicide, if you need someone to lean on for emotional support, call the Lifeline," the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline says on its website at samhsa.gov/find-help/988.

"Let them at all times concern themselves with doing a kindly thing for one of their fellows, offering to someone love, consideration, thoughtful help." - 'Abdu'l-Bahá



#### **Greenbelt Bahá'í Community**

that respects tradition and becomes your extended family

in the 21st century.

www.greenbeltbahais.org

#### **Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church** 40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt



Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors Find us on f facebook.com/mowattumc

301-474-9410

**Pastor Evelyn Romero** In-Person Worship Service 9:30 a.m. Come as you are

The Bible Says...

For You formed my inward parts; You wove me in my mother's womb. I will give thanks to You, For I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Wonderful are Your works, And my soul knows it very well.

Psalms 139:13-14



**IN PERSON Sunday Worship Services** 10a-11:15a @ Greenbelt Elementary School

MCFcc.org

#### **CATHOLIC COMMUNITY** of GREENBELT **MASS** Sundays 10:00 a.m. City Council Room 25 Crescent Road **ALL ARE WELCOME!** OR - Join us on ZOOM!

Greenbelt

**BAPTIST** 

CHURCH

For ZOOM link:

<u>FDeBernardo@aol.com</u>

Christ-centered **Biblical** 

& Reformed

Sunday Morning Worship 10:30am

Sunday School 9:15am

Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00pm

101 Greenhill Rd. Greenbelt, MD www.greenbeltbaptist.org











- Daily Mass: Mon-Fri 7:15am\*, Sat 9am\*
- Sunday Mass: Sat vigil 5pm\*
  - Sun 8am, 9:30am, 11am
- Confessions Saturday 3pm 4pm.



135 Crescent Rd.

www.sthughofgrenoble.org



#### Mishkan Torah Congregation

10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770 Rabbi Saul Oresky, Cantor Phil Greenfield An unpretentious, historic, welcoming, liberal, egalitarian synagogue

Friday evening services at 8:00pm

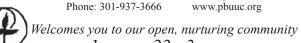
Saturday morning services at 10:00am

Offering hybrid services, online and in-person activities

For further information, call (301) 474-4223 www.mishkantorah.org Affiliated with these movements: Conservative and Reconstructing Judaism

#### Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church

3215 Powder Mill Road, Adelphi Phone: 301-937-3666 www.pbuuc.org





Kirk Freeman with Worship Associate Lula Beatty

The freedoms of belief, exploration, and expression have been essential characteristics of Unitarian Universalism and the traditions we claim. In our fourth principle, we covenant to affirm and promote not just a free, but a free and responsible search for truth and meaning. What happens when freedom and responsibility are connected this way? To what and to whom are we responsible?

Streaming to our Facebook page, on Zoom and in person at 3:00 at: University Christian Church, 6800 Adelphi Road, Hyattsville, MD



City Notes

Street Maintenance/Special Details hauled mulch every day from Northway Fields to the county's Organics Compost Facility. Horticulture/Parks removed 13 dump-truck loads of downed branches from Buddy Attick Park and delivered four truckloads of wood chips to the Community Gardens.

Refuse/Recycling collected 21.33 tons of refuse and 9.38 tons of recyclables. Building Maintenance repaired wall damage after a roof leak at the Community Center and maintained lights and cameras at Spellman Overpass.

The animal shelter, after welcoming four abandoned kittens, hosts five dogs, 10 cats, six kittens and three rabbits.

The Community Center facilitated a blood drive and provided space to the Greenbelt Assistance In Living program, Concert Band, Public Safety Advisory Committee, Labor Day Festival Committee, Golden Age Club, Interfaith Leadership, Arts Center, Cub Scouts and Girl Scouts.

Therapeutic Recreation welcomed back onsite Senior Food & Friendship lunch participants and facilitated a senior trip to Annapolis Mall. Park rangers monitored Girl Scout meetings at Schrom Hills Park.

#### Porch Food Collection

Porch Greenbelt Food Collection is continuing its program to collect food for Greenbelters in need. The remaining January collection dates are listed below:

Saturday, January 21. By 10 a.m. for 14 and 15 Courts Laurel Hill

Sunday, January 22. By 4 p.m. for Boxwood Village and Woodland Hills, 9 and 12 Courts Ridge Road and 11 and 13 Courts Ridge Road; by 5 p.m. for Lakeside Drive.

Porch Greenbelt continues to welcome volunteers who would expand food collection to additional neighborhoods in Greenbelt. Anyone with questions or who is interested in being a volunteer or starting a new neighborhood for monthly food collection with Porch Greenbelt, should email Robert Goldberg-Strassler at spreadruak@gmail.com.

The Porch community food collection program also accommodates individuals who do not live in a neighborhood with volunteer pickups. To make a nonperishable healthy food and/or personal hygiene product donation through Porch At Large (PAL), email an address to spreadruak@gmail.com by noon on Sunday, January 22. Leave the donation on the front porch in bags or boxes marked PORCH or RUAK and it will be picked up at 4 p.m. on January 22. If the front porch is not visible from the road, place donations in a location that can be seen. Also, make sure to check the expiration dates on all food items.

#### Hollingsworth Gallery **January Art Exhibit**

Racquel Keller, former artist in residence at the Greenbelt Community Center, is exhibiting her artwork during the month of January at the Hollingsworth Gallery at the National Wildlife Visitor Center on the Patuxent Research Refuge, 10901 Scarlet Tanager Loop, Laurel.



## City Information & Events

The strength of Greenbelt is diverse people living together in a spirit of cooperation. We celebrate all people. By sharing together all are enriched. We strive to be a respectful, welcoming community that is open, accessible, safe and fair.

**GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR MEETING** Monday, January 23, 2023 at 7:30 pm

#### ORGANIZATION

Call to Order

Roll Call

Meditation and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Petitions and Requests

Consent Agenda - Approval of Staff Recommendations (Items on the Consent Agenda [marked by \*] will be approved as recommended by staff, subject to removal from the Consent Agenda by Council.) Approval of Agenda and Additions

#### COMMUNICATIONS

**Presentations** 

- Black History Month Proclamation
- \* Minutes of Council Meetings
- Administrative Reports
- \* Committee Reports
- Board of Elections Proposed Election Code and Charter Amendments: Early Voting and Date of Election Day Report
- Public Safety Advisory Committee Review and
- Recommendations of 9 Pending Police Procedures
- Arts Advisory Board Report #23-1 Space Study

#### LEGISLATION

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

- Compensation Study
- Update on ARPA Projects and Programs
- State and County Legislation
- Council Activities
- Council Reports
- \* Meetings
- Stakeholders
- \* Resignation from Advisory Group

In advance, the hearing impaired is advised to use MD RELAY at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000 or email banderson@greenbeltmd.gov.

#### **MEETINGS FOR JANUARY 23-27**

Tuesday, January 24 at 7 pm, ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION (VIRTUAL), On the Agenda: Principal's Meeting, Minutes of December Meeting, Grants Update

Tuesday, January 24 at 7:30 pm, ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY, On the Agenda: Bring Your Own Bag Bill, Updates from Sustainability Framework / Green Team Circles: EVIPG Updates, EV Event, Food Systems / Sustainable Land Care, Green Building, Land Use, Transportation, Local Economies, Waste Management - USDA Composting Grant Awarded, Water/Streams

Wednesday, January 25 at 7 pm, Advisory Planning Board, On the Agenda: Follow-Up Discussion of NDC's Presentation on Greenbelt Station Greenspace Vision, Staff Updates on Schedule of Departure Hearing - 7010 Greenbelt Road, ARPA Spending Plan, Planning Projects

Wednesday, January 25 at 7:30 pm, WORK SESSION - RECREATION / **MUSEUM MERGER** 

Thursday, January 26 at 7 pm, FOUR SEASONS MEETING

Thursday, January 26 at 7 pm, FOREST PRSERVE ADVISORY BOARD (VIRTUAL), On the Agenda: Approve Minutes, MAGLEV Update, Northway Trailhead Closure, Raii-Tie Bridge Mediation, Final Review Trail Master Plan Section 5, 2022/2022 Exclosure Report

In advance, the hearing impaired is advised to use MD RELAY at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000 or email banderson@greenbeltmd.gov. This schedule is subject to change. For confirmation that a meeting is being held call (301) 474-8000. For information on public participation for the meetings above, visit the meetings calendar at greenbeltmd.gov.

#### **ELECTRONICS, STYROFOAM AND PAINT RECYCLING**

Saturday, January 28 from 9 am until 12 pm Public Works Yard, 555 Crescent Road

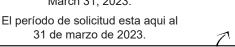
Paint Recycling \$5 per container

NO Alkaline Batteries or CFLs NO Tube TVsQuestions?

For more information, call (301) 474-8004.

#### GREENBELT EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP BECA DE EDUCACIÓN GREENBELT

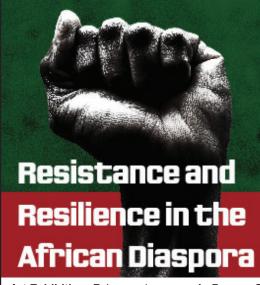
Application period open through March 31, 2023.



#### **FISCAL YEAR 2024 RECOGNITION GROUP APPLICATIONS** www.greenbeltmd.gov/groups

Completed applications must be submitted by 4:30 pm Monday, February 6. Call (240) 542-2196 or email cpracht@greenbeltmd.gov for more information.

City Council wants your input on what you're looking for in a City Manager. Fill out the Community Stakeholder Survey at www.greenbeltmd.gov/survey



## BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2023

The programs presented this year in recognition of Black History Month 2023 highlight the talents. genius and survival skills of people with African heritage as they strive to live and thrive in various challenging environments.

Presented by Greenbelt Recreation and the Black History and Culture Committee.

Art Exhibition: February 1 -March 6

Artful Afternoon: February 5 Community Art Fun: February 11 12 - 3 pm

Kaiser Health Screening Unit **FREE:** February 11, 10 am - 3

Free Family Film at the Old **Greenbelt Theatre: FREE** February 26

In Person Cultural Program: February 19, 2:30 - 4:30 pm

Featuring spoken words with

Chris Haley, Sainey Cessay, Francis Stedman;

Capoeira Angola with Mestre Santemu:

Kweku Owusu drums and dance.

For full program details and times visit www.greenbeltmd.gov/BHM

#### **GREENBELT LITTLES PRESCHOOL PROGRAM**

This program is for kids ages 3-5 years. Children must be fully potty-trained. Winter and Spring classes available. Call (301) 397-2200.

#### **BRENDY GARCIA**

**Bilingual Community Health Caseworker** Trabajadora de Servicos Communitarios

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10 am - 1 pm Springhill Lake Recreation Center, 6101 Cherrywood Lane

Mondays and Wednesdays, 9 am - 5 pm Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Rd, Ground Floor East

For more information, (240) 424-0302 or bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov.

#### **CURRENT CARES PROGRAMS**

#### **GREENBELT NURSERY PROJECT**

This FREE program is available for Greenbelt families with newborns to 2 years old. Service includes monthly diapers, formula, baby milestone progress review, and more. Call (240) 542-2019 or email kfarzin@greenbeltmd.gov.

#### **CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUPS**

Greenbelt Assistance in Living (GAIL) is offering support groups online or in-person beginning January 2023. Registration required. In-person: Every 2nd Wendesday of the month from 6-7 pm at Greenbelt Community Center, Ground Floor East Online: Every 3rd Wednesday of the month from 2-3 pm. Call (240) 542-2029 or email sjohnson@greenbeltmd.gov

#### FREE PRODUCE DISTRIBUTION

This FREE program occurs every 3rd Thursday of the month from 1 - 3 pm. Look at this section of the City calendar at www.greenbeltmd.gov/calendar for locations and information.

#### **COMMITTEES & BOARDS VACANCIES:**

- · Advisory Committee on Education
- Advisory Planning Board Arts Advisory Board
- Board of Elections
- Community Relations Advisory Board
- Forest Preserve Advisory Board
- Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability
- Park and Recreation Advisory Board
- Public Safety Advisory Committee
- Senior Citizens Advisory Committee
- Youth Advisory Committee

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL (301) 474-8000.

Rent and Utility Assistance · 417 Greenbelt Households were granted assistance totaling \$2,009,655.44

Mortgage and HOA fee Assistance · 19 Greenbelt Households were granted assistance totaling \$65,623.41

Greenbelt ARPA Funds Assistance Programs Update (as of 1/7/23)

## Hospital Center Plans to Meet VIRTUAL continued from page 1 More Critical Needs in 2023

Luminis Health Doctors Community Medical Center will focus on bringing behavioral healthcare and services for women and children, among others, to Prince George's County this year. "We accomplished a lot in 2022," reported Center President Deneen Richmond, "and we are on a mission to do more in 2023."

Three years ago, Doctors Community Hospital joined with Anne Arundel Health System to create Luminis Health in order to make major investments in the community and build upon the hospital's nearly 50-year legacy in Lanham, according to Richmond. She cited goals of breaking down health barriers, delivering more high-quality, equitable health care to Prince George's County and providing greater access to care, "closer to home."

#### **Behavioral Health**

Richmond wants to address unmet needs in the region. "The pandemic showed us all the need for behavioral health services. With the help of a \$20 million grant from Prince George's County and County Executive Angela Alsobrooks, we opened a new behavioral health pavilion on the campus of Doctors Hospital," said Richmond. "We've already treated approximately 150 patients in our outpatient mental health and urgent walk-in clinics, as well as our psychiatric day hospital. A new adult inpatient psychiatric unit and residential substance use program will open in early 2023.

#### Women and Children

Another area of growth for Luminis is additional women's health services in the county, which Richmond describes as a critical need. The medical center is now offering a variety of minimally-invasive treatments, including for fibroids and gynecologic cancers.

This year, Luminis Health plans to submit a Certificate of Need to bring obstetrics services to their Lanham campus. Richmond points out that "more than 80 percent of babies are delivered outside of Prince George's County.... By bringing these services closer to home, we can eliminate maternal and infant mortality, which is one of the bold goals of our Strategic Plan called Vision 2030." Future investments include building a women's health pavilion.

Thanks to an ongoing partnership with Children's National Hospital, they can also treat pediatric patients in their emergency department.

#### Covid

"While there is much to celebrate," said Richmond, "the medical staff at the hospital has been on the front lines battling the Covid virus for nearly three years. At times, it has been exhausting and emotionally overwhelming.

A six-dollar Valentine Can never go wrong Canoodle your sweetheart In Poem and Song

Sweetie Size at \$6

See page 8 to get yours!

The vaccine is our best shot to transition from a pandemic to an endemic." Luminis Health has administered approximately 125,000 Covid-19 vaccines to the community.

#### **Justice Champion**

This month Luminis Health was designated as a CEO Connection 2023 Mid-Market Economic Justice Champion for its dedication to justice, equity, diversity and inclusion. The award recognizes Mid-Market companies that are influencing change, innovation and standards for excellence, while making equal opportunity in their companies and communities a way of life not just a slogan.

"This recognition reinforces Luminis Health's commitment to lead as an anti-racist organization, eliminate health disparities and improve health outcomes for all people in the communities we serve," said Tori Bayless, CEO of Luminis Health. "With our 10 strategic recommendations from our Health Equity and Anti-Racism Task (HEART) Force, we are steadfast in confronting racism, addressing the impacts of systemic inequity and dismantling structural injustice."

Companies were evaluated based on their results in the following areas: Board Diversity, C-Suite Diversity, Supply Chain Diversity. Workforce Diversity and Community Engagement. Based on their scores, the companies have been awarded the following levels of achievement: Economic Justice Champions, Economic Justice Advocates, Economic Justice Engaged.

Luminis Health's HEART Force, a multidisciplinary group made up of members of the board of trustees, senior leaders, medical staff, community partners and stakeholders, developed recommendations that are now embedded in their 10-year strategic plan. The HEART Force's recommendations were in three major areas: lead as an anti-racist organization, and confront racism and eradicate inequities in health care; enhance culturally informed communications and community collaboration; and measure and integrate accountability.

"It is an honor to live in Prince George's County and serve as president of Luminis Health Doctors Community Medical Center," said Richmond. "You can expect more progress [this] year and beyond as we fulfill our mission to enhance the health of the people and communities we

Information for this article was drawn from press releases issued by Luminis Health.

manager for a senior service organization; she changed jobs and went from working full-time to half-time because of an inability to find quality childcare during Covid. (Many schools had not resumed before and aftercare for children even at the start of fall 2022.) "I think what's best for families as a whole is often the last thing considered," said Kenny, sharing her personal thoughts, and not speaking as a representative of the PTA.

One county teacher and parent, who requested their name be withheld as a county employee, said, "As a teacher and mom, I'm doing double duty. I feel the district doesn't completely consider all the logistics involved. We're often expected to do it all as teachers and then as parents, especially mothers."

"Figuring everything out is difficult, and it means I'm giving up even more work time," shared Lauren Silberman, who lives in Greenbelt but works near Annapolis while her husband commutes to Virginia. "It's such a juggle. And we only have one kid. I can only imagine how much more confusing and difficult it must be for parents of multiple students."

Gisela Bardossy, a Greenbelter with three children who are county students, said, "For full-time working parents it is a nightmare! It is a treasure hunt to find the work that they need to do, going through pages, links and who knows what ... and with multiple children gets even worse. A part of me has given up and just doesn't care as a coping mechanism." Bardossy is an associate clinical professor at the University of Maryland. "I don't work from home," she explained. "There are some days that I can but I don't have power over the schedule, so when I have to be in-person I have to be there. For

example, January 25!" "It makes me mad," said Valentina Aquila, mother of a kindergartner and an educator herself. If the point is to give teachers more time to grade or time off, Aquila would prefer a day off. She has to take her child to the aftercare program at Greenbelt Elementary School during the remote days and is thankful that they are open. She'd prefer to see fewer partial and remote days and regular days off instead, pointing to the several partial days in the school year that could be consolidated to make planning easier for parents and provide real breaks for teachers and students.

#### **Instructional Days**

When the schools have virtual and half days they are counted as instructional days in the school year, of which there need to be



In October PGCPS added three virtual half days to the school calendar.

180. Parents who had local family for support and flexibility in their work were most amenable to virtual days. This group preferred virtual days to no school so that the school year wouldn't be extended.

Melissa Yashinski works parttime from home and describes her schedule as very flexible. She would have preferred that the half day in November was in-school as originally scheduled, partly due to the short notice. "But I preferred the move to virtual over just cancelling and having to make the day up, lengthening the school year," she shared. "I guess, ideally, I'd rather have the day completely off and a few less days of school, but since we have to hit that 180 days, I'm fine with a few asynchronous ones,"

Sharing an alternate point of view, Amanda Demos Larsen preferred virtual half days to in-person ones. "We love it and hope they do more," she said. "I much prefer that we have a few asynchronous days rather than have the school year lengthened," Demos Larsen added. "My kids' teachers have all been really clear both to the kids and to the parents about what work to do during the day and it doesn't seem any more difficult than homework. I would prefer that they do less on a device and more on paper, but that's an issue with work at school, homework, etc." Demos Larsen said she can do some of her work from home and having teenagers allows her to go into the office for at least part of the day. "So, for me," she said, "drop-off and early pickup would have disrupted my workday more than asynchronous learning."

#### **Opportunities**

families who are able to spend the virtual days with their See VIRTUAL, page 12

children, they can actually offer a welcome break in the middle of the school year and the opportunity for learning through play, bonding and adventure. Next week Robert Goddard Montessori's PTA is organizing an ice-skating playdate during the virtual day.

Alyssa Sickle has children in first and third grade at Greenbelt Elementary School. "I only work very part-time. So, for me, I'm happy to get a 'free day.'" In November she took advantage of the weather and took her children for an outing, engaging in some learning by playing. "Obviously that is harder for a parent without the flexibility to not be at work," she said. "I realize I have the flexibility to make this work, and I don't think much instruction will be lost. Households with all the adults working full-time are likely more frustrated," shared Sickle. Next week she's planning to take advantage of the asynchronous day again by going out of town for a couple of days, "knowing the kids won't miss much when we're gone for that virtual day."

#### **Terminology**

Some parents, particularly those of younger children who may not have experienced the different modalities during Covid, were confused by the terminology of virtual, asynchronous and synchronous, which it seems were poorly defined for newer parents, if at all. Asynchronous virtual learning is learning that takes place at the student's pace and timing – often assignments posted to the school's Electronic Learning Management System (ELMS), which are to be completed and submitted online by the student. Synchronous virtual learning is





## **School News**

## County Board of Education Votes in New Leadership

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

On January 12 at the Board of Education meeting, Judy Mickens-Murray was elected as the new board chair of Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS). She nominated herself at the December meeting and beat out the other contender, Shayla Adams-Stafford, who was nominated at the same meeting by Jonathan Briggs, Greenbelt's representative. That meeting ended without either candidate securing the chair, but last week Mickens-Murray was elected via secret ballot with eight votes to Adams-Stafford's five. One of the 14 board members did not vote.

Mickens-Murray is an at-large board member, appointed to a four-year term on the board by County Executive Angela Alsobrooks. She is one of four appointed members on the board. She was also previously appointed as a board member by then-county executive Wayne Curry and then-governor Parris Glendening in 2002, the year that the elected school board was replaced by an appointed one after continual fighting among board members. Elected positions returned in 2006 after a scandal that would ultimately send former PGCPS CEO Andre Hornsby to

#### Become a Plogger: Make Greenbelt Sparkle

What is "plogging"? It's an eco-friendly exercise that involves picking up trash while jogging or walking, taking care of one's health at the same time. Plogging was coined by Swedish outdoorsman and environmentalist Erik Ahlstrom and comes from plocka, the Swedish word for pick up.

Greenbelt Plogs, a RUAK initiative, is a fun and engaging way to clean up litter from the streets, paths, streams and ponds while raising awareness on the importance of preventing stormwater pollution.

Join fellow Greenbelters in helping make Greenbelt sparkle.

Those interested in joining Greenbelt Plogs should email Robert Goldberg-Strassler at spreadruak@gmail.com.

#### **AUTO** AUCTION

1/9/23 - 1/16/23 10-11:30 a.m. **4E JP MORGAN CT** WALDORF MD 20601

**2009 CHRYSLER SEBRING** 1C3LC55D69N501542

1986 LINCOLN **CONTINENTAL** ILNBP96FXGY735404



**Judy Mickens-Murray** 

federal prison. Mickens-Murray takes over from former chair Juanita Miller, who is the subject of administrative hearings over misconduct in office, willful neglect of duty and incompetence. Mickens-Murray thanked her colleagues for the confidence placed in her. "I promise you moving

Wednesday of the month at 7:30

p.m. The club provides a fun and

friendly environment for anyone

interested in improving their

public speaking and leadership

skills. Learn more at greenbelt.

toastmastersclubs.org.

forward we will become a board of distinction with your help," she said

As reported in the News Review's December 22 issue, Lolita E. Walker was elected vice-chair in December. She is a newlyelected board member representing District 9.

#### **Toastmasters Meet** The Greenbelt Toastmasters Club invites all to join them online every first, third and fifth



## At Springhill Lake Elementary Greenbelt CARES staff Joyce Crowne Plaza and the Holiday

School Supply Distribution

Kolenky and Brendy Garcia distributed over 70 bags of school supplies at Springhill Lake (SHL) Recreation Center on the cold, damp afternoon of January 17.

Each family received one bag per student, providing over 70 students with folders, notebooks, notebook paper, pencils and pencil cases, erasers and glue, markers and highlighters, scissors and rulers, crayons, wipes, and hand

The supplies were donated by IHG Hotels and Resorts, whose Greenbelt properties include the

The idea for the event came from CARES' August 2022 Backto-School Mini Family Health Fair held at the SHL Recreation Center, at which attendee survey responses indicated school supplies as an ongoing need. The January 17 event provided a school supplies boost midway through the school year.

Remaining supplies were stored at the Recreation Center for future distribution.



Brendy Garcia, left, talks to parents at the event.



Supplies ready to be distributed

- Photos by **Erica Johns** 



Some of the supplies donated

# Supermarket



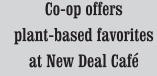


## Eat the Rainbow! Colorful fruits and veggies are packed with vitamins and antioxidants.

Something for Everyone! www.greenbelt.coop









**Smoothies** 







**Build Your Own Salad** 

#### At the Library

The Greenbelt Library's regular hours are Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Tuesdays and Wednesdays, noon to 8 p.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sundays, 1 to 5 p.m. In case of inclement weather or an emergency, real-time updates to the Library's schedule are posted at pgcmls.info/alerts.

The Library offers sidewalk service seven days a week until 4:30 p.m. for customers who prefer to pick up requested items from the table outside the upper-level entrance. Register at pgcmls.info/event/7561562.

#### Storytimes

Thursday, January 19, 11:15 a.m., ages 2 to 3. Register at pgcmls.info/event/7554792.

Wednesday, January 25, 12:15 p.m., ages 3 to 5. Register at pgcmls.info/event/7554826.

#### **Reading Challenge**

In conjunction with the Washington Wizards basketball team, the Prince George's County Memorial Library System once again offers its Winter Reading Challenge, through March 31. Activities include reading, watching Wizards games, attending virtual library programs and staying active and engaged with the Library and the Wizards. Books to read for children in various age groups (K-2, grades 3-5 and grades 6-8) will be featured.

The free challenge can be joined online through Beanstack, a software platform and mobile app that allows readers to easily record their reading minutes, track their progress and stay motivated to complete the challenge. For each activity completed, participants can earn points toward challenge badges. Those who complete the challenge will be eligible for a variety of prizes, including a raffle entry for tickets to the Wizards' April 9 home game versus the Houston Rockets. Visit pgcmls.info for more information and to register.

#### News Suite

The PGCMLS News Suite (pgcmls.info/news-suite) offers quick and easy access to many national and international newspapers and magazines, including digital editions of The Washington Post and The New York Times.

#### Chromebooks

Online 2Go Chromebooks featuring Kajeet LTE/Wi-Fi access may be borrowed from the library by those age 18 and older with library cards in good standing; one device per customer. No LINK or student accounts are allowed.

The Chromebooks have a sixweek loan period which may be renewed once for another six weeks if there are no hold requests from other customers. Further information about the Chromebooks and other technology is available at pgcmls.info/borrow-technology.

#### Donate Sneakers For People in Need

Greenbelt Community Church, United Church of Christ (GCC) is collecting athletic shoes by partnering with GotSneakers. This sneaker recycling program helps to keep sneakers out of landfills, where they have harmful effects on the environment.

A donation box is located outside the Fellowship Center (the small building behind the church) for people to drop off sneakers at any time.



Starting young with the News Review! Jason Luly gets 10-monthold Dalia Glaser-Luly started.



The nearly full moon and reflection at Greenbelt Lake on January 5

## VALENTINE continued from page 1

be handed in a sealed envelope to a cashier who will accept the envelope with the payment inside – they don't ring it up or give a receipt. Store hours are Mondays to Saturdays 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sundays 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Emailed Love Notes also are paid for at the Co-op – be sure to include email information to allow the matchup of payment to Love Note. Emailed Love Notes go to GNRValentines2023@gmail.com.

#### Valentine Love Needed Now

If there was ever a year that needed Valentine's Day, this is it. The world's going to the dogs as usual and naked aggression and greed fill the news. The Greenbelt News Review promotes neighborliness and good feeling and its Valentine's issue will be

Thursday, February 9 – a little ahead, because of its publication schedule.

#### Widen Sweetie Horizons

It's clear that Valentines should go to lovers, family and friends. But is there someone else to laud – a checker at the Co-op who always takes an extra moment? The crossing guard at the elementary school or a teacher perhaps. Someone new to the neighborhood or perhaps lonely after losing someone special? Maybe a News Review carrier? A friendly neighborhood puppy?

And all the very best of cheer and friendship to all Greenbelt from your friends and neighbors who staff the News Review. We love you too.



## Pay and Drop at Co-op

Even if you email your Valentine, payment still goes to the Co-op Supermarket.

- 1. Use the form at the store or in this newspaper. Include the email address if you emailed your love note and write in your text or print a copy of your email and include it.
- 2. Count the words in your love note and include payment as cash or check (checks to Greenbelt News Review). Rates: \$6 for up to 20 words, \$9 for 21 to 30, \$12 for 31 to 40 and \$3 per 10 words (or part thereof) over 40 words. Close is good enough.
- 3. Put everything in the envelope provided at the Co-op: form, Love Note (if printed out) and payment, then seal it.
- 4. Hand the sealed envelope to a Co-op checker.

## Monday Meet-Ups For Homeschoolers

Monday meet-ups for home-schoolers at the Greenbelt Youth Center are back. There is play for the kids and support for the parents. All ages invited. Meetings are on Mondays, January 23 through May 22 (no meetings on federal holidays) from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Meet in the Multipurpose Room for play, socialization and age-appropriate activities/games; bring a brown bag lunch.

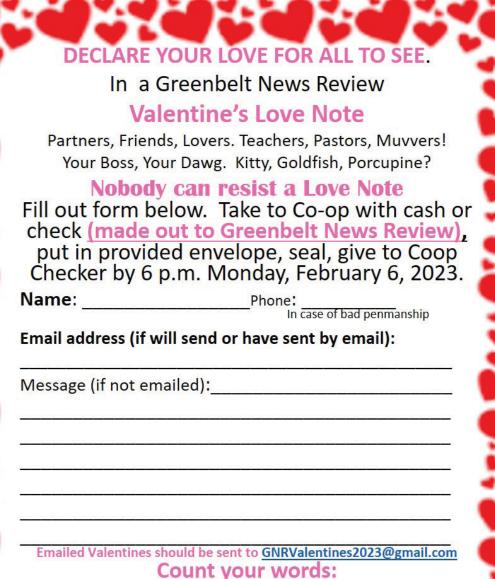
All families in and near Greenbelt are invited to join. This is not a drop-off program; children must be directly supervised by their adult.

See Facebook: Greenbelt Homeschoolers or gbhs20770. wixsite.com/gbhomeschoolers. For questions or to sign up contact Li'l Dan, parent volunteer/city liaison: dceldran@hotmail.com, 240-643-3768.



Explore the History, Culture, Arts and Nature of Prince George's County!

Curated routes and trail maps: anacostiatrails.org



20 words or fewer: Sweetie \$6

21 to 30 words: Super Sweetie \$9 31 to 40 words: Mega Super Sweetie \$12

Additional words \$3 for 10 or part thereof.

## **Police Blotter**

Incidents reported here occurred January 9 to 15. Readers are encouraged to contact the police if they have information that may aid in an inquiry. Call the non-emergency number 301-474-7200 or email pd@greenbeltmd.gov. Times provided are when the incidents were reported.

#### Theft

On January 15 at 5:30 a.m. near 6400 Ivy Lane, someone was knocking, and the resident opened the door. A man in his late 20s, 6'1", 160 pounds, barged into the room and demanded money. The resident gave the man his money, and the man left.

Package theft occurred January 9 near 5400 Stream Bank Lane and January 12 near 8000 Mandan Road. Personal luggage was stolen from outside of a business on January 11 at 3:38 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road. Identity theft occurred January 11 near 7500 Greenway Center Drive, and January 13 near 6700 Lake Park Drive. Shoplifting occurred January 10 at 9:13 p.m. near 5900 Greenbelt Road, and January 15 at 12:04 p.m. near 7400 Greenbelt Road.

#### Break-in

On January 11 at 7:06 p.m. near 8000 Lakecrest Drive, a man saw two men wearing ski masks in his home via security camera. By the time officers arrived, the men were gone and nothing was taken

#### Suspicious Person

On January 11 at 2:52 p.m. near Candlewood Place and Greenbrook Drive, neighbors observed an unknown young man attempt to gain entry to a residence with no success.

#### Accident

On January 9 at 12:11 a.m. near 6900 Hanover Parkway, two recently stolen vehicles were involved in a crash, and no drivers stayed at the scene.

#### Assault

On January 13 at 9:31 a.m. near 7900 Good Luck Road, a victim was injured by someone they knew and was advised how to press charges.

#### **Trespassing**

On January 10 at 12:13 p.m. near 9100 Springhill Lane, a man who was trespassing in the laundry room was banned from the property.

#### **Disorderly**

On January 9 at 8:20 p.m. near 100 Centerway, a customer spit on an employee and was banned from the property.

#### **DUI Arrest**

On January 12 at 6:56 p.m. near 7700 Hanover Parkway.

#### Vehicle Crimes **Stolen Vehicles**

Of this week's six stolen vehicles, four were Hyundais: On January 9 near 7800 Mandan Road, a black Hyundai (Md. plate 6ET1120); January 10 near Ridge Road, a dark gray 2018 Elantra (Md. plate 6ER7874); January 12 a 2022 Kawasaki Ninja ZX6R motorcycle, black with gray and red stripes, near 100 Westway; and near 7800 Mandan Road a 2008 white Ford Crown Victoria (Md. plate 1EH7755); January 13 near 7500 Mandan Road, a silver 2012 Elantra (Md. Plate

#### Theft from Auto

plate 3EA0450).

8FB6403); near 7500 Mandan

Road, a blue 2017 Accent (Md.

On January 9 near 6000 Greenbelt Road, property was stolen from a car with no signs of forced entry. Hyundai ignitions were damaged January 9 on a 2017 model near 9100 Edmonston Court, and a 2013 Elantra near 7500 Mandan Road. On January 10 at 4:50 p.m. near Ridge Road, the ignition was damaged on a Kia Soul while the car engine was left running. Steering wheel airbags were stolen January 10, from a 2012 Honda Civic near 6000 Springhill Drive, and a 2019 Acura SUV near 9100 Springhill Lane. On January 10 near 9100 Edmonston Road, a car window was broken and the car was rummaged through, and another car window was broken but nothing was taken. On January 10 near 9100 Springhill Court, a disability placard was stolen. On January 13 near 5900 Cherrywood Terrace, the catalytic converter was stolen from a 2020 Nissan van.



## Unlicensed Fishers Get Warning

Officers from Maryland Natural Resources patrolled and checked fishing licenses at Greenbelt Lake on Thursday, January 12. Licenses are required for people over the age of 16 and if fishing for trout they must have

a trout stamp. Free fishing days in Maryland this year are the first two Saturdays in June and July 4. For more information on licenses, visit: dnr.maryland.gov/pages/ service\_fishing\_license.aspx.



A DNR patrol truck is parked at Buddy Attick Park while an officer is out checking for fishing licenses.

#### **Send Us Your High Resolution Photos!**

The News Review encourages readers to send in photos of Greenbelt landmarks, activities and the changing seasons. Photos should be at least 300 dpi, and must include the name of the photographer and a caption. The caption must name any identifiable people in the photo, as well as explain the picture.

If you are sending photos from your phone, please choose the option to send "actual size", or upload the photos to your computer first and then email the photos at full size. Send photos to editor@ greenbeltnewsreview.com.

#### **M-NCPPC Offers** ParkFinder Tool

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC), Prince George's County Department of Parks and Recreation, offers ParkFinder, a resource tool to assist residents in locating parks and other recreational amenities.

ParkFinder is an interactive map tool developed to help users find local parks, community centers, museums, art centers, pools and more. Users can search facilities based on name, amenity types and ADAcompliant features. This tool will be continuously evaluated and enhanced with new search features. User feedback is welcome at pgwebmaster@ pgparks.com.

For more on the Department of Parks and Recreation, visit pgparks.com and stay connected on Facebook, Twitter, PhotoShelter and Instagram. The Department of Parks and Recreation encourages and supports the participation of individuals with disabilities in all programs and services. Register a minimum of two weeks in advance of the program start date to request and receive a disability accommodation.

#### 

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See page 8 to get yours!

#### AFFIDAVIT OF LIFE

I, Orin Wayne of the family of Solomon, Affiant, being over the age of eighteen (18) years, competent to witness does state for the public record the following:

That the public record on file with the Office of the Registrar of the DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA located at 899 North Capitol St NE, Washington, DC 20002 shows that the entity known as Orin Wayne Solomon took the first breath of life on the twenty-seventh day of the month of April in the year one-thousand nine-hundred and seventy (27 April 1970), and

That as of the date of this Affidavit of Life the entity known as Orin Wayne Solomon is still alive and breathing, and Since the twenty-seventh day of the month of April in the year one- thousand nine hundred and seventy (27 April 1970) has not surrendered nor abandoned any claims of life nor of any and all claims of estate to include but not limited to ORIN WAYNE SOLOMON, and

That the attachments (Exhibit A and Exhibit B) to this affidavit are considered as Points and Authorities of Law, and Further Affiant saith naught.

I, Orin Wayne of the family of Solomon, do affirm that I have read the above affidavit and do know the contents to be true, correct, complete, and not misleading, the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

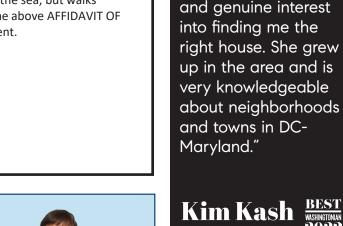
Date

#### WITNESSES

We, the undersigned witnesses, attest that we individually and collectively know the entity known as Orin Wayne Solomon to be alive and breathing and that he is not lost beyond the sea, but walks among us upon the land, and that we did witness him affix his autograph to the above AFFIDAVIT OF LIFE and also to place his right thumb print in his own blood upon this document.

Wiilie Lamont Hicks C/O Notary Officer: Fedelia Feldhaus 325 Ellington Blvd ., Suite 218 Gaithersburg, Maryland [20878-9998) C/O William Oscar Scott

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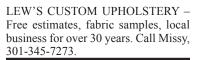
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See page 8 to get yours!

## **RATES**

CLASSIFIED: \$3.00 minimum for ten words. 15¢ for each additional word. Submit ad with payment to the News Review office by 6 p.m. Tuesday, or to the News Review drop box in the Co-op grocery store before 5 p.m. Tuesday, or mail to 15 Crescent Rd., Suite 100, Greenbelt, MD 20770.

BOXED: \$10.60/column inch. Minimum 1.5 inches (\$15.90). Deadline 2 p.m. Monday for ads that need to be set up, including those needing clip art and/or borders. 6 p.m. Tuesday for camera-ready ads. Certs and Notarizations each \$10.

NEEDED: Please include name, phone number and address with ad copy. Ads not considered accepted until published.

DROP ads and payments in the mail slot in the exterior door of the News Review office. The door is located to the left of the main entrance on the east side of the Community Center (side closest to Roosevelt Center and the Municipal Building).

OVERPAYMENTS: To properly account for overpayments too small to warrant refunding, the News Review accumulates overpayments of less than \$1.00 and periodically contributes the funds to a registered charity. Once the office reopens, this policy will not apply to payments made in person.

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## City Council Considers Charter, Bond Bills, Winter Assistance

by Deb Daniel

On January 9, the Greenbelt City Council met and discussed amending the city charter, various projects for bond bills and actions the city could take to shelter people who are without heat or power.

#### **Charter Amendment**

In 2009, the city implemented several election reforms with the goal of increasing diversity: increasing the city council from five to seven members, adding an additional precinct in Greenbelt East to shorten voter lines and amending the city charter to allow early voting. Since that time, the city charter has not been amended and Mayor Emmett Jordan felt its language to be antiquated. Jordan thought the charter restriction that the city manager live in Greenbelt would make the city manager search difficult. Finally, the Board of Elections is considering changes that might need an amendment to the charter.

#### **Amendment Process**

City Solicitor Jason DeLoach noted that state law defines the amendment process. He described the process of legislative amendment resolution introduction as 1) having a public hearing with 21 days prior notice and 2) before the 50-day amendment period comes into effect, there is a 40day referendum period. During those 40 days, citizens can file a petition to halt the process and put the amendment to referendum. 3) If the referendum does not take place, then 50 days later the amendment will become final. Or citizens can introduce the amendment by petition of 20

percent of the qualified voters of Greenbelt.

Jordan asked whether a simple majority would be sufficient to introduce the amendment resolution and DeLoach affirmed a simple majority. Councilmember Rodney Roberts noted that council as the legislative body could just have a referendum at election time. DeLoach agreed that if council wanted to wait until the election, that process would be viable but if council wanted to proceed immediately, the amendment would have to be a resolution. DeLoach also noted that code changes or ordinances which are not charter changes do not go through this amendment process.

#### **Residency Requirement**

Councilmember Kristen Weaver asked DeLoach if any other municipalities had a clause restricting where the city manager could live and DeLoach replied that he had not seen that anywhere else. Councilmember Judith Davis mentioned that the Maryland Municipal League (with 157 municipalities) might have that information.

#### **Cold Snap**

Councilmember Ric Gordon inquired of Interim City Manager Timothy George the resources that might be available to homeless people or people without power, especially in the cold weather Greenbelt had recently. Jordan asked that the city post to social media instructions and resources in the event of an emergency. George responded that in a cold snap, the police department lobby is open. In the event of a power outage or other emergency,

George works with staff to open other facilities such as the Community Center. The city then posts resource locations on social media. Councilmember Silke Pope said she thought the police department put out an alert for those citizens who have signed up for alerts.

#### **Bond Bill**

Jordan mentioned that Greenbelt's Delegate Nicole Williams had asked if council was considering a state bond bill. "Bond bills do not get a vote in the House or Senate. Rather, they are included in the capital budget; the projects are funded through a pot of money set aside. The pot of money doesn't change, no matter how many projects are submitted" according to a state webpage, marylandle gislative watch.com/bond-bills-2. Jordan recommended a bill for bicycle and pedestrian passageways while Weaver recommended fixing the Community Center roof.

#### **Call for Sports News**

Do you have Greenbelt sports news to share?

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#### $\mathcal{Q}_{\mathcal{Q}}$

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## VOLUNTEERS continued from page 1

#### **Working with Nature**

Environmental Coordinator Kevin Carpenter-Driscoll explained how to put the cages around the trees and remove the vines so the DPW trucks could haul away the debris. He talked about the priority of DPW to work with nature and the wildlife in our environment. Our world is an ecosystem where all life has a part to play. Beavers are ecosystem engineers, meaning they directly change their environment. They build dams, which create wetlands by blocking waterways. Wetlands are critical habitat for many different species of plants and animals. Humans can fish in the lake fed by the wetlands. **Volunteers** 

Among the volunteers were students from Eleanor Roosevelt High School (including the basketball team) and students from Dora Kennedy French Immersion School. Councilmembers Ric Gordon, Kristen Weaver and Silke Pope together with Mayor Emmett Jordan also worked. Students receiving service credits brought papers to be signed by Carpenter-Driscoll. Family members also pitched in to help. In all, a festive day.



Eleanor Roosevelt High School Men's Basketball Team came ready to work on the day of service.



Volunteers cage trees along the Lake to protect them from beavers.



Happy volunteers



A good turnout of volunteers on a bright winter day

- Photos by Chondria Andrews

## City Park Ranger Talks to Golden Age Club

by Mary Moien

At the January 11 meeting of the Greenbelt Golden Age Club, Greenbelt Park Ranger Patrick Mullen spoke to a standing-room only audience. One of four city park rangers, Mullen described his background with the National Park Service prior to joining the city staff. He asked what the group wanted to learn, and questions flew. Mullen touched briefly on the history of the city, from its founding by the federal government, includ-

ing issues related to segregation and quotas. Audience members chimed in with added information.

Mullen described the rangers' day-to-day activities, including the many parks and other areas that the rangers must cover, mainly during daylight hours. He commented that rangers used to have some police powers if



Greenbelt Park Ranger Patrick Mullen entertains and educates Golden Age Club members.

they uncovered a problem, but that power is no longer in effect. He described some unusual incidents, such as a man stuck in the mud during a time when the lake was being drained. During that time some residents were using the area as a beach and wading, which is not permitted. The water is not clean enough for swimming, Mullen said, mentioning the number of ducks, frogs, etc. who live and poop in the lake.

There was a question about the kinds of animals found in the city. One of the more unusual to be seen is the fox. He said that there are no bears in Greenbelt, but that coyotes have been found in Greenbelt Park, but so far not in Greenbelt proper.

#### VIRTUAL continued from page 6

that which takes place in real time, for example when a teacher holds class via Zoom. Virtual Learning is an umbrella term that encompasses them both. This year the school system changed their ELMS from Blackboard to Canvas, so students and teachers are navigating a new platform and interface.

#### In Practice

For many students who had to do virtual learning from the spring of 2020 until the spring or fall of 2021, the process of getting to virtual synchronous classes at the right time, finding the links from different teachers and trying to get them to work in real time was particularly stressful and, for those that struggled, it brings back difficult memories of the pandemic.

"My child (and me, for that matter) will forever be scarred by virtual learning," said Kenny. "I realize it was necessary at the time, but why keep pushing it now?" she asked. "The school system has not adequately invested in a system that would make virtual learning smoother and more effective," she said. "Until they do, I feel it's best to just have regular school or no school at all."

For some parents, synchronous virtual learning means that they need to keep track of their children's meetings during the day as well as their own and be at hand to assist getting them into their virtual locations at the right times. At least with asynchronous learning parents could assist and plan to help with work at a time that worked best for them. The vast majority of parents and students who shared their experience with the News Review were relieved that so far the virtual learning this year is all asynchro-

"I do prefer asynchronous learning to online learning," shared Demos Larsen, "but I think that's mostly because of Zoom fatigue from the pandemic. I think an online platform that works well could be useful occasionally. I'm all about adding variety to the way classes meet to learn."

Brittany La Couture, a lawyer who works from her home in Greenbelt, also preferred asynchronous virtual learning. "I'm sure asynchronous is better than [synchronous] virtual, especially for the littles," she told the News Review. "But what's the point? The teachers still have to put the lessons together plus worry about dealing with all the parents with tech issues." La Couture pointed out that the necessity to assist children with their schoolwork hindered parents from arranging joint care. "Parents not only have to take a day off work to provide the lessons, but we can't even necessarily work together to pool for childcare because every kid will have different lessons," she pointed out. "If the kids aren't in school they should just have the day off. Full stop.'

"The asynchronous work was better than actual Zoom school," agreed Yashinski, "Both my kids finished their work by 9:45 in the morning and we had the rest of the day to do whatever. Their teachers also provided the assignments on Friday so we could have done them early if we chose to"

Lei Zong, a computer engineer who works from home some days and from her office in Baltimore others, was an outlier in her preference for synchronous virtual days over asynchronous. "My kids did well in virtual learning and their teachers seemed to be somewhat effective," said Zong. "I know there are always kids that don't do well in virtual, but it worked out for us and I'd prefer [synchronous] virtual than pure asynchronous as I feel that my kids would get more out of having a little face time with the teachers." On the last virtual day she was able to enlist help from grandparents. "Having grandparents nearby is another luxury that many don't have," she acknowledged. On January 25 either she or her husband will arrange to work from home.

#### Learning Loss

Just as Zong believes her children would get more out of synchronous classes than asynchronous work, numerous parents felt

their children would be learning little during the asynchronous virtual half days. Some completed the assigned work in 30 minutes. The same criticism has been made of in-person half days, too.

"Early dismissal days always seem like a waste and this way the kids and parents don't have to make the effort to get to school for a day of classes that are shortened so much that they're pretty useless for learning (at least in middle and high school)," said Demos Larsen.

"Surely it is not done because of educational benefits," Aquila said of the virtual days.

"If the school needs a day off to do whatever, just say so, urged Kenny, "I don't need my child hooked up to yet another app to 'learn.' It's hard enough to get kids away from screens without school pushing them toward it every chance they can dump them in front of one. Thanks to 'asynchronous learning days' throughout the pandemic, children effectively went to school four days a week. For years. And now there's an enormous learning deficit. What a mystery ....

I'd rather the year get extended and they are actually learning rather than just checking the box of having had a 'school day.'"

Since the last virtual day, more schools have been able to get before and aftercare operational, which is a help for working families, who, for a fee, can send their children during the virtual days. "At least my child gets social interaction on these days, but my expectation is that the actual learning achieved will be little to none," Kenny told the News Review.

So far the public schools have only scheduled asynchronous days. The State has specified only up to three of the virtual days may be asynchronous, which means that unscheduled virtual days, for snow for example, may have to be synchronous if they bring the district over that total.